

# BOSTON RECORDER.

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SATURDAY.

## RELIGIOUS.

## Home Missions.

For the Boston Recorder.

LETTERS FROM THE AGENT.

BRAINTREE, FEBRUARY, 1834.

To Rev. Dr. COOK, Chairman of the

Executive Com. of the M. M. S.

My Dear Brother, Ten miles from Ship-

pody, or rather from brother Parker's

place, we left the St. Francis, and wound our

way over the hills, sometimes in the wagon and

sometimes on foot—now jolting most delightfully on a

springless road, and then getting our feet almost

lost in the mire—till we came in sight of the vil-

lage, two miles distant, where our journey was

terminated. The opening of the country on

this point is delightful. An irregular

valley of many miles in cir-

cumference, bounded by hills, covered by the

various shades of nature—dotted

with here and there a cleared plantation, or

a cluster of plantations, embosomed by

forests of Birch, Maple, Birch, hard Pine and

Oak—lies before you, and gives rich prom-

ise of becoming one day a fruitful garden of

God. At the top of a sanctuary however

looked down, at the base, not one of the

settlers, but a few scattered dwellings. How

think you, shall this be true?

Satan is settled chiefly from Danville, Vt.

and Claremont, N. H. A few families from

the north have found their way thither. Of

the most of leading influence in the town and

the church, one is from Reading, the other from

Danville. In the company of such men, you

will find that you are beyond the limits of New

England—you are at home, in Canada.

Brother Parker was stationed here nearly five

years ago, by the "Canada Education and

Home Missionary Society," and has been suc-

ceeded by the Female Auxiliary Society of Bro.

Parker's church, in Montreal. When he

was here, he could summon no brother to

his assistance. He organized it himself. It has

grown to forty-six members. Three hun-

dred persons belong to his Congregation—and

most of the prejudices that met him at his com-

ing, have been subdued. The Methodists had

preached here in their "labors of love," but with

out success, than forming classes, which

were sustained by the presence of a preacher, soon

dropped, and came to naught. It is a fact—so

far as my observation has extended, and how-

ever it may be accounted for—that that demon-

strous and some others accomplish compar-

atively little, except in the midst of better organi-

zation and more stable congregations. It is be-

cause, that like the ivy, they need the strong

reason why they so far overlook the wants of

the more desolate parts of Zion, and make their

principal efforts for an increase of their num-

bers among congregations already organized

and supplied with the bread of life. I do not

propose the question invidiously.

The influence of an established and active

missionary, on Education, is not sufficiently con-

sidered. When Bro. P. came here, only three

schools were maintained in the town—and those

were rudely managed. Now, there are three,

and all of them are well conducted, and

regularly superintended. Nor has this change

come from the increase of population, but from

the improved moral character. Religion

strengthens natural affection, and irresistibly

leads to the discharge of parental duties. (The

education of children among others—) while it

explains and enforces filial obligations. And

again for its support, demands a holy and ef-

fective ministry.

At Shipody, there is a Catholic chapel—another

in Wexham, a third in Sherbrook, and a

fourth in progress, at Timwich. These have

been built within six or seven years, for the

supply of the few Catholics scattered among the

Protestant population of the Townships. The

want of proselytism scarcely appears at all—

nor rarely does a Protestant attend their wor-

weight—viz. The peculiar character of the population, rendering faint the prospect of early success. (1.) Many of the original settlers of these Eastern townships were runaways from Justice—e. g. Stephen Burroughs. (2.) Others felt the restraints of well regulated society to be irksome, and abandoned it, to enjoy greater freedom, and yield to grosser indulgences. (3.) Nearly all were poor—and brought with them only an axe on their shoulders, and a flock of needy children in their arms. (4.) The tenure of property was insecure. No offices of Registry were established. The same lands were often deeded to different individuals—and constantly conflicting claims were the consequence. Men of wealth and character, of course were slow to jeopard their interests here.

Among such a population, discouragements will meet the servants of God, at every step. The *olium cum dignitate* of an established New England mission, is here out of the question. Labor—"the opus"—various, arduous, and persevering, is his destiny.

But improvement has begun. The chaotic elements are falling into orderly arrangement. Property is rising. Enterprise is increasing. Education is advancing. The social character is improving. Roads are becoming passable. The forests are disappearing. Towns are opening. Log houses are giving way to more convenient structures. And the mass of the people are ready now to acknowledge—that they have souls!

A new era has commenced in the history of Canada. It began with the establishment of the American Presbyterian church in Montreal—and it has been marked by the increased patronage of Government bestowed on nearly all useful institutions. Tens of thousands of dollars are now in the progress of expenditure, for the support of schools—and other tens of thousands for the improvement of the roads. Arrangements are making for the sale of the "Crown, and Clergy Reservations;" and Companies are forming for the promotion of various internal improvements. And a brighter day is dawning, than Canada has yet seen.

But what can a single minister do, surrounded by a population of 50,000 or 60,000 souls, without a brother in the ministry nearer than eighty miles to sustain him? How must he feel, how shall he increase in strength, and mount up as on eagles' wings—when for four years he sees the faces of only two brethren, once or twice in his own house, when, during the same term, he is not able to exchange once, and is obliged to preach from one to three lectures every week, in one or other of ten distinct neighborhoods around him, beside making frequent missionary excursions among the wholly destitute, twenty-five to seventy miles from home—I ask how can he endure it? And yet, this is the situation of the dear brother, whose name I have repeated so often—and you will not be surprised, if I tell you, that for three weeks he had been unable to preach at all, previous to my call upon him—that he was then suffering severely from irritated lungs—and that an emaciated frame and pallid countenance indicated incipient disease which required many weeks suspension of labor, and change of regimen. May he long live—not to be the mere pioneer of a host of missionaries—but to be their leader and brother, in the enterprise of subduing all Canada to the faith of the Gospel. Yours, &c.

For the Boston Recorder.

## HOME MISSIONS.

REPORTS OF AUXILIARIES.

The annual meeting of the Franklin County Domestic Missionary Society, was held at Charlestown, Oct. 9, 1833. The officers chosen for the ensuing year, were, Rev. B. F. CLARKE, Pres., Rev. W. TILSTON, V. Pres., Rev. A. LOOMIS, Sec., Mr. A. PHELPS, Treas., and L. A. WHITE, Auditor.

Rev. F. Horton of West Brookfield attended as Delegate of the Mass. Society. The following resolution was proposed, and supported by Mr. Loomis, the Secretary, and Mr. Horton, viz.

"That the Resolution of the General Association of Massachusetts, recommending to the Pastors and churches of this Commonwealth to aim this year, at the collection of \$30,000 at least for Home Missions, receive our most cordial approbation."

The Report states, that \$527.20 have been paid into the Treasury, the past year. The four largest sums are—from Buckland \$61.89, from Charlestown \$57.80, from Hawley 1st parish, \$38.32, from Shelburne \$57.07.

\$124.49 of the whole amount, were received from parishes that have been, or are now assisted by the Mass. Soc.

The appropriations made by the M. M. S. within the Co. the year preceding May last, were \$475.—\$550 have been appropriated this year—and \$100 more, at least, will be requested—and probably granted.

This Auxiliary stands among the foremost of the brotherhood, in constancy, zeal, and devotedness. In ability, it occupies a lower rank. In steadiness of purpose, and promptness of action, it yields to none. Its feeble churches are numerous. Its wastes are not narrow. No wonder, Unitarianism has been here. Its presence was mischievous, blight, and death. Its retreating attitude is menacing—its remaining influence is wielded by Universalism and Infidelity.

—But the churches of F. county have seen their worst days. "The Lord is here." Many are his beloved servants there.

We can make but a short, and single extract from the Report, which is from the pen of the Secretary—it is presumed;

"But your field of labor lies not solely in Franklin County, nor even in Massachusetts. Your object in connection with the Christian community, is no less than that of extending the blessings of a preached gospel, to every settlement in our country. And, to succeed in an enterprise so vast, so difficult, and at the same time so essential to the well-being of millions, demands a proportionate effort. The combined, well-directed energies of all the friends of religion, vigorously and perseveringly applied to this object, would constitute such effort. Let it only be put forth in firm reliance on the grace of God, and the work is done. The seed is both planted and watered; and God will give the increase."

HAMPDEN CO. AUXILIARY.

The annual meeting was held at Springfield Oct. 11.—The officers chosen for the ensuing year, were—Hon. S. LATHROP, Pres., Rev. T.

M. COOK, V. Pres. Rev. H. SMITH, Secretary, H. BAKER, Jun. Treas. S. REYNOLDS, Auditor. Besides these, there are twelve Directors—six of whom constitute an Executive Committee.

The meeting was addressed in the evening by Rev. Mr. Condit of Longmeadow, Mr. Ver-nicle of W. Springfield, Mr. Horton of W. Brookfield, and O. B. Morris, Esq. of Springfield—with great interest, and effect.

The same Resolution named above, as having been proposed at the meeting of the Franklin County Association, was also proposed and sustained. And that Resolution deserves to be pondered by every Clergyman and friend of H. Missions in Massachusetts—not only pondered, but adopted. More than \$23,000 were raised last year, and who was injured—who was strained by the effort? More than \$300,000 were raised for Foreign Missions, and who was the loser?—We have at least 45,000 professing Christians in our Evangelical churches—75 cents from each—one cent and a half a week, would raise the amount required on it. Can it not be done? Shall it not be done? If it can be made the effort—if the lay brethren, and the active sisters in our churches, will put their shoulders to the wheel, and their hands to the distaff—it will be done—and it shall not be told—that a Resolution of the General Association of Massachusetts has failed.

The Hampden Auxiliary has done well toward carrying the Resolution into effect—\$1618.87 have been raised within its limits—if we mistake not about \$400 more than last year—let all other parts of the state make the same advance on their contributions, and the work is done! Not far from \$600 of this, will be expended on the feeble churches of the county. The remainder will go to fertilize the regions of the West.

We would gladly make large extracts from the Report—but must forego the indulgence of inclination. The following will be read with interest.

"The last anniversary of this Society closed under most interesting circumstances. It was evident to all that its friends were becoming more deeply interested in this department of Christian benevolence, and on every new completion of the object; and that there was a great readiness to consecrate a portion of their wealth to the advancement of the cause. And the excitement of that occasion was not the effervescence of a moment. It has lived, it is believed, in the breasts of hundreds, and come up with more than undiminished solemnity, to this evening. The proposal that was then made, that during the year \$400 should be raised by individual life subscriptions, was received with high satisfaction; and the whole sum has been secured with scarce a word of solicitation. And there is no doubt, but that forty such subscriptions had been proposed, instead of twenty, they would have been gained."

"You have only to press on, brethren, in the heavenly way in which you have engaged, and the day is not distant, when all the broken down walls of Zion in the midst of me shall be repaired. Every spot of desolation shall be the garden of the Lord. Soon shall a voice from heaven say, 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain,' and they shall all live. Lift up your eyes and behold the delightful change that has been taking place where there were formerly 7000 heathens, and that half the inhabitants of the town, and this number includes men under twelve years of age."

The church have come forward and taken a noble stand in reference to this. Entire abstinence is now a condition of membership with the church; and the use of the life in intoxicating spirits is a violation of the by-laws, and of course, a punishable offence. The church and people are breaking away, with a final and glorious struggle, from the withering grasp of this monster of hell. O what energy, what purity, what glory will that church exhibit, when she shall have arisen from this struggle in the day of the Lord."

## Miscellany.

For the Boston Recorder.

## A Traveller's Observations.—NO. 1.

Southampton—History of the Church—Benevolent operations—Temperance—Sabbath School.

MR. EDITOR—I have made some observations respecting the history of Southampton, where I have spent several days, which may be interesting to your readers.

This town is pleasantly











